

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/102 W

-----061113Z 090370 /22

R 060920Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3322

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU, ET, UK

SUBJECT: MAHDIST LEADERS REPORTEDLY VISIT ETHIOPIA

REF: KHARTOUM 0032

1. BRITISH AMB PHILLIPS AND I COMPARED NOTES JAN 5 RE OUR SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH MANSOUR KHALID PREVIOUS DAY. KHALID'S POINTS TO PHILLIPS WERE SIMILAR REFTTEL BUT HIS COMMENTS RE RECENT MOVEMENTS MAHDIST LEADERSHIP WERE SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC. KHALID TOLD PHILLIPS THAT MAHDIST LEADERS DADIQ AL-MAHDI, OMAR NUR AL-DAYM AND SHARIF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI (PARA 4 REFTTEL) HAD BEEN SEEN IN ADDIS, IN GONDAR AND IN THE ANSAR CAMPS THEMSELVES WITHIN THE LAST TWO MONTHS. KHALID INDICATED IT WAS THESE LEADERS WHO WERE ARRANGING DISTRIBUTION MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS REFERRED TO PARA 3 REFTTEL.

2. PHILLIPS COMMENTED JOCULARLY TO ME THAT HE HAD FEARED HIS
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SUMMONS BY KHALID MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO RECEIVE URGENT PROTEST OVER FACT THAT SADIQ AL-MAHTI CONTINUES HOLD BRITISH RESIDENCE PERMIT. IN FACT, THIS ISSUE WAS HANDLED IN VERY LOW KEY. SUDANESE AMB LONDON SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HAD TAKEN ISSUE UP WITH FONOFF WHICH HAD TOLD HIM HOME OFFICE HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH CASES BUT THAT FONOFF WOULD LOOK INTO IT AGAIN, HAVING IN MIND GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE

TWO COUNTRIES. PHILLIPS THEREFORE MADE SIMILAR COMMENT TO KHALID WHO DID NOT PRESS POINT.

3. COMMENT: REPORTS (WHETHER ACCURATE OR NOT) REACHING GOS RE VISITS TO ANSAR CAMPS OF MAHDIST LEADERSHIP WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO CAUSE RECENT HEIGHTENED CONCERN. BREWER

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